

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

RSC-01 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 AID-20 OMB-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /166 W

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R 091235Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4481

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

COMIDEASTFOR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MP MASS

SUBJECT: MAURITIUS GETS ITSELF A NAVY

1. IN CONNECTION WITH VISIT LAST WEEK OF FOUR UNITS OF INDIAN NAVY (INS DELHI AND THREE ESCORTS), MAURITIUS WAS PRESENTED WITH COASTAL PATROL BOAT, INS AMAR.

2. THANKING INDIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THIS GIFT, PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM POINTEDLY NOTED THAT MAURITIUS WAS RECEIVING AID FROM A FRIEND THAT WAS NOT ITSELF RICH. THE PM SAID NEW VESSEL WOULD ACT AS SOURCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT IN EXPLOITING COUNTRY'S OCEAN RESOURCES, AND WOULD AID IN DEFENDING MAURITIAN RIGHTS IN INDIAN OCEAN. HE ALSO THREW IN HIS STANDARD STATEMENT ON MAURITIAN (AND INDIAN) DEVOTION TOWARD ZONE OF PEACE PRINCIPLE.

3. ACCORDING TO INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER SHARMA, THE AMAR, WITH COMPLEMENT 4 OFFICERS, SOME TWENTY CREW, WOULD CONTINUE TO BE MANNED BY PERSONNEL OF INDIAN NAVY WHILE QUALIFIED MAURITIANS FROM SPECIAL MOBILE FORCE WERE SENT TO INDIA FOR

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NAVAL TRAINING. THIS PROCESS EXPECTED TO TAKE UP TO THREE

YEARS. CERTAIN OF INDIAN SEAMEN WILL BRING THEIR FAMILIES TO MAURITIUS DURING THIS "TURNOVER" PERIOD. INDIAN HK STATES AMAR WAS BUILT IN CALCUTTA, YARD; SPARE PARTS, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR OVERHAUL WERE BUILT INTO AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH VESSEL DONATED. HE STATES HOWEVER THAT MAURITIUS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE EXPECTED PAY FOR ANY NEEDED REPAIRS. (ALTHOUGH WELL POLISHED UP ON PRESENTATION, AMAR IS PLAINLY AN OLDER SHIP, AND REPAIRS MAY PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN ITS FUTURE. MAURITIANS HAVE HAD UNCOMMONLY BAD LUCK WITH OTHER VESSELS THAT HAVE COME THEIR WAY.)

4. COMMENT: THE BRITISH WERE REPORTEDLY FIRST ASKED BY GOM TO PROVIDE A COASTAL PATROL BOAT, BUT REQUEST WAS TURNED DOWN. THIS IS NEGATIVE RESPONSE SIMILAR TO PREVIOUS UK HAS MADE IN DEFENSE/SECURITY FIELD. (REF: PORT LOUIS A-165, JULY 10, 1973; A-200, SEPTEMBER 18, 1973) EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT HELICOPTER PROMISED TO GOM BY FRENCH (AT TIME WHEN FRENCH-MAURITIAN RELATIONS WERE COZIER WITH PMSD LEADER DUVAL STILL IN GOVERNMENT COALITION) IS IN PIPELINE AND SHOULD ARRIVE SHORTLY.
SULLIVAN

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